

I am outraged that the NAB members - who have the monopoly on valuable broadcast spectrum - wants to squelch the competition provided by XM and Sirius. If AM and FM broadcasters want to ban localized information on XM, then XM should have every right to demand a ban nation-wide programming on "local" radio. Goodbye Rush, goodbye Howard, goodbye network news.

Obviously that's ridiculous. But no more ridiculous than AM and FM corporations telling Sirius and XM what to put on their nationwide programs.

It is unbelievable that the FCC would even consider the NAB petition. XM and Sirius have a First Amendment right to program their spectrum with any non-obscene formats or information that they wish.

The NAB has already made an agreement with XM that XM will not use terrestrial transmitters to insert local material into its nationwide program stream. The NAB has to stick to the deal that it made.

America's AM and FM stations have largely failed in serving their audiences. Time spent listening is declining. Satellite radio is filling the vast need for intelligent or entertaining programming that AM and FM cannot hope to match.

The NAB's petition must be rejected.